

Workman chooses to emphasize the positive aspects of these "accommodations," stressing that at least for these 24 "higher class of paying patients" there are separate "one-bedded" rooms, "handsome" parlours, and a "capacious" dining room (1869, 11). The main corridor is an impressive 100 feet long, with transepts half that length, and the verandas at the south end of the corridor "afford the finest prospect to be had anywhere in this locality" (1869, 11). He concludes with complacent conviction: "I do not believe that in any Asylum in America, a more cheerful residence is afforded" (1869, 11). The prospect could not have been so good for long however, since by 1870 Workman is complaining in typically splenetic style about its occlusion by "that horrible conglomeration of ugliness in the south, yclept the 'Crystal Palace' and its tag-rag congregation of stables, cowsheds, pig-pens, and other deformities, that would disgrace any town other than muddy York" (1870, 17). Elsewhere he describes the case of a 'pretender' who was 'better pleased with Asylum lodgment and diet than with hard work at home', perhaps because it suggests that life inside the Asylum was better than life outside it -- the kind of reversal he relished. Workman asserts that 'he was one of a class which is rather more numerous than it should be' (1867, 46). Perhaps one was too many. It is hard to believe, from the following, that anyone could really have made it his ambition 'to eat the bread, and to occupy the bed, which should be bestowed on the truly afflicted' (1867, 46). Or perhaps the man really was mad.

Indeed, portions of Workman's Annual Reports read rather like advertisements in a catalogue competing for 'lunatic' business, as when he insists that the insane in Ontario are 'more amply and promptly ... proportionately more largely and comfortably' treated than in any 'State in the American Union ... [or] country in Europe' (1871, 20). But he concludes even such panegyrics on a baleful note, complaining sourly about the 'quality of cases coming in', regretting the absence of 'vacancies from discharges', and remarking the continuity of the narrow Asylum beds with 'their last narrow beds' (1871, 20). His comparison implies, in a form less intended to move people to action than his earlier rhetoric, some connection between his 'no vacancies' and something like premature burial. One knows from reading his earlier work that governmental and bureaucratic policies are responsible for a condition to which his figure of speech now lends an air of inevitability and defeat.